TALKING POINTS FOR SIG(I) MEETING ON THE NITS

I. Approval of 1982 NITs of Current Interest

--The first order of business is to obtain SIG(I) approval of the Current NITs as agreed to by the IG(I).

--The 1982 Current NITs are longer and more comprehensive than those for 1981. They focus on substantive issues from the 1981 NITs that remain valid and ongoing, particularly in areas where our knowledge is incomplete. They also include new topics (e.g., Soviet intelligence policy and activities, Soviet leadership succession, terrorism directed against US interests, Soviet negotiating strategies in START, Argentine foreign policy and political alliances) of concern to consumers.

--Before entertaining comments on Current NITs, I would note that some of the topics need updating to reflect recent world events. Bob Gates will now disseminate a handout containing proposed modifications intended to update the Current NITs and to make statements therein more accurate. (Handout)

II. Concurrence on NITs of Continuing Interest

--Formulation of Continuing NITs has resulted in a modified set of topics that are more detailed and specific than those for last year. Additions of items under existing topics reflect increasing concern over problems and tensions in Third World areas, particularly South America, the Near East, and Africa. The few priority changes involved upgrading priorities on Soviet activities relating to conventional arms reductions (Topic II.4.b.), internal security in key developing countries (Topic IV.2.b.), and for Southeast Asia (Topic VI.6.).

--Since there seems to be no need for updating
these topics, I will entertain comments on
the NITs of Continuing Interest as they were
approved by the IG(I).

III. Purpose of the 1982 NITs

--The foreword to the 1982 NITs will contain
new statements of purpose for the current
topics, and for the continuing topics. A
copy of the proposed foreword is attached.
(TAB A-1)

--The purpose of the Current NITs has been
changed to provide a sense of focus,
emphasis, or priority over the next nine to
twelve months, rather than implying that
analysis on these topics is needed <u>only</u> in
the short term.

--The purpose of the Continuing NITs has not
been changed, but has been made more
descriptive of the functions they serve.

IV. Review of NIT Process and Procedures

A. Community response to Current NITs

--This last spring, for the first time,
narrative answers to each question were
provided to the policymakers.

--There has been some indication that such a
response, some ten months after issuance of
the NITs, is not particularly useful.

--(**Questions** which could be put to SIG(I)
principals:)

(1) Do you view the NITs of Current
Interest as guidance to the
Intelligence Community for production
planning and scheduling or do you
expect answers to the questions posed
in each topic?

(2) Did you find the substantive responses
to the 1981 NITs to be of any value?
If not, why not? Would more timely
responses be more useful?

(3) Would you be satisfied with simply a
listing of revelant intelligence
publications?

(4) Would a response that included a short description of the Community's data base on the relevant topic and an outline of pertinent ongoing and planned research projects be more responsive to policymaker intelligence needs?

(5) Can you suggest any other types of responses that would be more suitable than those heretofore mentioned?

B. Continuing NITs

--The Continuing NITs are viewed by some to be merely an abbreviated version of the attachment to DCID 1/2.

--There seems to be growing sentiment to eliminate, or drastically modify, the Continuing NITs.

--What is apparently not recognized is that the Continuing NITs are the only mechanism that reflects the consumers views on priorities. The DCID 1/2 process could be made to work this way, but significant functional and organizational changes would be required.

--Some **alternatives** which might be considered for the Continuing NITs:

(1) The NSC prepare annually a narrative statement of regional priorities and key topics as guidance for changes in DCID 1/2 requirements and for development of long-term production capabilities, or;

(2) An Interagency Group (Intelligence) composed of production managers and policymakers develop annually a prioritized listing of key countries and topics as guidance for the DCID 1/2 Committee and the production community, or;

(3) A working group consisting of producer and consumer representatives to, on a continuing basis, make priority adjustments to the DCID 1/2 attachment.

PROPOSED RESTATEMENT OF THE PURPOSE OF THE NITS

(To Be Contained in Foreword of NIT Document Issued by DCI)

FOREWARD

This document contains the National Intelligence Topics (NITs) that were developed at my request from recommendations made by senior members of the US foreign policy community and concurred in by the Senior Interagency Group (Intelligence) as requirements and priorities for use by the intelligence agencies of the US Government.

There are two types of NITs. The Topics of Current Interest serve as a forum for policymakers to inform intelligence collectors and producers of their critical needs for information and analysis and are intended to keep the intelligence effort focused on those countries and issues of greatest concern to the policymakers over the next nine to 12 months. The Topics of Current Interest, in addition to being narrowly focused and of immediate policy concern, generally address only those substantive issues for which added emphasis is needed in the short term.

Concerns over issues that are regularly monitored and reported on by the Intelligence Community are reflected in the NITs of Continuing Interest either by adding to or modifying existing items or by changing assigned priorities. These NITs provide the Intelligence Community with general guidance on issues that senior policymakers believe will be of greatest importance to US interests over the longer term. The topics provide guidance to production managers for the development of intelligence capabilities (e.g., building data bases enhancing analytical resources) over the longer term. They also serve as a mechanism by which consumers can, on an annual basis, effect changes in the priorities of topical categories in the attachment to DCID 1/2. Accordingly, the definitions of the priorities in the NITs of Continuing Interest are the same as those in the DCID 1/2 attachment. The priority definitions are:

1 – Intelligence **vital to US national survival;**

2 – Intelligence **of critical importance** to US political, economic, and military interests;

3 – Intelligence **of major importance** to US political, economic, and military interests;

4 – Intelligence **of considerable importance** to US political, economic, and military interests;

5 – Intelligence **of moderate importance** to US political, economic, and military interests;

6 – Intelligence **of some importance** to US political, economic, and military interests;

7 – Intelligence **of interest** for US political, economic, and military policy planning and execution.

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